



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Minidoka Internment
National Monument

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Minidoka Internment National Monument News Release

October 21, 2002
For Immediate Release

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PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED ON JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERMENT CAMP MONUMENT

Japanese Americans living along the West Coast were evacuated to remote internment camps from 1942 through the end of World War II without being charged of any crime. Bringing that part of our nation's history to light in a meaningful and comprehensive way is the challenge facing the National Park Service at its new National Monument in south-central Idaho: Minidoka Internment National Monument. The National Park Service will hold public open houses and workshops in mid-November to listen to the general public and learn from former Japanese American internees. The purpose of the workshops is to develop a management plan that will effectively protect the site and educate the public about this chapter in American history.

Over 13,000 internees were held at Minidoka, among them 7,000 from the Seattle area. Minidoka was one of 10 internment camps where 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. On January 17, 2001, by Presidential proclamation, 73 acres of the original site were designated as a National Monument to be managed by the National Park Service.

Little remains of the 600 buildings that once supported the Minidoka community but many of the war-time residents are still alive, and some are generously assisting the National Park Service in its work to commemorate their experience. The history they tell goes beyond the pain of relocation to the perseverance of people who built a life where they could.

"Stories of courage and loyalty will emerge as we work through the planning process," said Neil King, superintendent, who believes the site has particular poignancy today. "There is potential here for a very powerful National Monument that will have relevance for every generation. Today, we see in the aftermath of September 11 some of the same fear and suspicion that haunted our nation in World War II. We need to be sure the lessons here are passed on to future generations."

The National Park Service will hold nine public meetings, each in an open house and workshop format, at locations in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. This is an opportunity to learn about Minidoka, provide comments, raise issues, offer suggestions, and help define the future of the National Monument. These meetings represent the "scoping" stage for developing a General Management Plan for Minidoka. Anyone interested in attending is welcome.

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Meetings are scheduled as follows:

Eden, Idaho

Senior Citizen Center
210 East Wilson
4:30pm Open House, 6:00pm Workshop
Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Twin Falls, Idaho

Shields Building
College of Southern Idaho
4:30pm Open House, 6:00pm Workshop
Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Ontario, Oregon

Four Rivers Cultural Center
676 Southwest 5th Avenue
4:30pm Open House, 6:00pm Workshop
Thursday, November 14, 2002

Bainbridge Island, Washington

Bainbridge Island Commons
370 Brian Drive
4:30pm Open House, 6:00pm Workshop
Monday, November 18, 2002

Seattle, Washington

Nisei Veteran's Hall
1212 South King Street
9:00am Open House, 9:30am Workshop
Tuesday, November 19, 2002

Husky Union Building, Room 106B
University of Washington
4:30pm Open House, 6:00pm Workshop
Tuesday, November 19, 2002

Japanese Baptist Church
160 Broadway
4:30pm Open House, 6:00pm Workshop
Wednesday, November 20, 2002

Seattle Buddhist Church
1427 South Main Street
4:30pm Open House, 6:00pm Workshop
Thursday, November 21, 2002

Portland, Oregon

Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center
117 Northwest 2nd Avenue
4:30pm Open House, 6:00pm Workshop
Friday, November 22, 2002

For more information about Minidoka Internment National Monument and to submit comments, log onto www.nps.gov/miin or contact:

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NOTE TO EDITORS: PHOTOS AND MAPS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. Please call Nancy Stromsem at (206) 220-4015 or e-mail nancy_stromsem@nps.gov with your request.

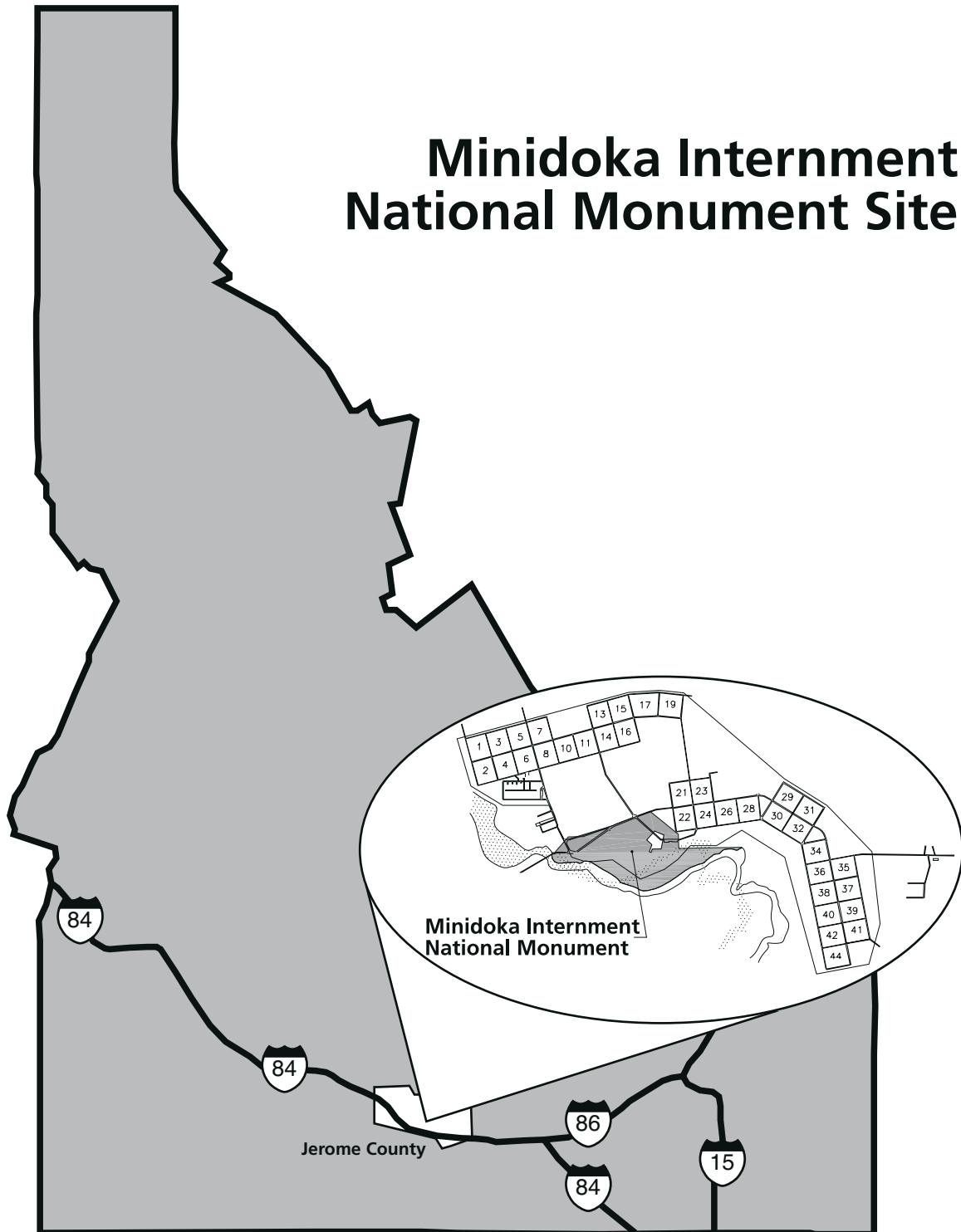
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Minidoka Internment National Monument

Minidoka Internment National Monument Site





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Minidoka Internment National Monument



The entrance station and waiting room, 2002
National Park Service photo



Block 21 group photograph, 1943
from *The Minidoka Interlude*



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Mapping the entrance garden, 2002
National Park Service photo



Sharing stories at Minidoka, 2002
National Park Service photo